

This bill will provide students with a strong incentive to achieve academically in high school. This bill will increase the affordability of higher education without increasing the indebtedness of students and their families. This bill will increase the accessibility of a higher education and expand the options of college choice available to students and their families.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in this effort and cosponsor this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD:

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION,
Washington, DC, February 17, 1998.

Hon. JAMES P. MCGOVERN,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MCGOVERN: I write to express my interest in and appreciation for the bill you are sponsoring, the "Incentive for Achievement Through Pell Grants Act," which will establish a program to increase Pell Grant awards to students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class. This bill is clear evidence of your commitment to providing greater access to higher education for students from low- and middle-income families.

Your proposal to provide an incentive to students with early information about the availability of an increased Pell Grant could have a profoundly positive impact on students' academic performances and aspirations. This will help to mitigate students' concern that resources necessary to fund a postsecondary education are beyond their financial reach, and will instead motivate them to achieve greater academic success.

I congratulate you for introducing this innovative legislation. I look forward to working with you as reauthorization of the Higher Education Act progresses.

Sincerely,

TERRY W. HARTLE,
Senior Vice President.

ASSOCIATION OF JESUIT
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES,
Washington, DC, February 17, 1998.

Hon. JAMES P. MCGOVERN,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCGOVERN: On behalf of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, I want to commend and support your initiative in introducing the "Incentive for Achievement Through Pell Grants Act" for needy students who have demonstrated special achievement.

The doubling of the Pell Grant for recipients who graduate in the top 10% of their high school class can provide both an incentive and a reward for those students. This program would send the encouraging message to students struggling to achieve under difficult circumstances that their hard work and perseverance will be rewarded.

The new Hope Tax Scholarship Credit and Life-Long Learning Tax Credit assist middle income families in providing an education for their children. Your program addresses the needs of lower income families.

Pell Grants have long been a critical component of federal student financial aid programs on our campuses. Our association has consistently worked diligently to preserve these and all campus-based programs at the same time we have significantly increased our own institutional commitment to financial aid for our students. Your new program very importantly supplements these efforts, rather than replacing them.

Our special thanks to you for this latest example of your leadership, this time in support of deserving and needy students who will help create our nation's future.

Sincerely and gratefully,

CHARLES L. CURRIE, S.J.,
President.

COLLEGES OF WORCESTER CONSORTIUM,
Worcester, MA, February 18, 1997.

STATEMENT OF PAUL J. LYNKEY, DIRECTOR
OF EDCENTRAL

"Those of us who work with low income college bound students know that the cost of an education is often perceived as a major barrier. We need to do all that we can to encourage these students especially those with exceptional ability, to strive for their ultimate potential in higher education and beyond"

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE,
Worcester, MA, February 18, 1998.

DR. CHARLES L. FLYNN, JR. ENDORSES PELL
GRANT LEGISLATION

Worcester—Dr. Charles L. Flynn Jr., acting president and provost of Assumption College, spoke in support of Congressman James P. McGovern's Pell Grant legislation today.

Dr. Flynn remarked, "On behalf of Assumption College, it is my pleasure to commend Congressman McGovern for leading the effort to increase Pell Grants. Pell is the federal government's largest, most important program of need-based financial aid. More than any other federal program, it targets low and middle-income students.

"Congressman McGovern's proposal to create a 'Double' Pell Grant for students of high academic achievement is particularly impressive. This proposal simultaneously addresses two important national needs. First is the need to make educational opportunity available to all citizens without regard to family wealth. Second is the importance of encouraging outstanding student achievement. Congressman McGovern's legislation will help to keep the doors of higher education open to students who need financial assistance; it will also reward high school students who strive hard, learn more, and earn better grades.

"Last year, 16 percent of Assumption students who applied for financial aid were eligible to receive Pell Grants. The average award to these students was \$1,500. Those Pell Grants were supplemented by other federal and state loans and grants. And by far, the largest amount of financial aid came to students and their families from the College itself. The system I am describing, therefore, is a partnership of colleges, state government, and the federal government. This partnership is essential if we are to continue to be a nation of true opportunity.

"Congressman McGovern, you are playing a vital role in the Congress of the United States. At Assumption, we share your view that Congress should do more to ensure opportunity for low and middle-income students. I hope that everyone here today will send a message to our congressional leadership that the McGovern Bill is important, not only to Central Massachusetts, but also to higher education nationally.

"Higher education serves several purposes. As chief academic officer of this liberal arts college, I am particularly aware of the humanizing role of a college education. At Assumption, in reason and in faith, we prepare citizens. We prepare students for the good use of their talents, the responsible exercise of their rights, and the fulfillment of their obligations to others. That is true for our graduates at work, at home, and in the public square. In that way, too, I am keenly aware of the importance of higher education to the future of Central Massachusetts. If we are to have a community of hope and economic opportunity, we must have a highly skilled workforce. The McGovern Bill promises to keep the doors of higher education wide open, and thus to further both the noble and practical ends of our colleges and universities."

RICHARD P. BURKE,
Vice President, Public Affairs.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. RIGGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ALLEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF REPUBLICAN MAJORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Congress has much to be proud of, and the American people who elected us should take heart in the dramatic shift in how our government in Washington is perceived by those it serves.

When I was elected to Congress in November of 1994, the economy and American businesses were reeling from the effects of the largest tax increase in the history of America. Our Nation was also facing a \$200 billion deficit each year for the next 10 years.

However, in 1994, the American electorate turned and supported Republicans around the Nation and endorsed their promise to lower taxes and balance the budget. No longer would Washington spend money it did not have on programs we did not need.

In 1995, the American people entrusted the new Republican majority with the reigns of Congress, handing them the gavel for the first time in 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, some will tell you that our prosperous economy and our recently restrained budget had nothing to do with the revolution of 1994. They might even say that the political implications of the 1994 election were overstated.